IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 4, last paragraph, lines 25 to 26:

The same procedure applies when switches are connected in tandem. Figure 3 illustrates the case when there are two switches, a first switch S1 and a second switch S2, between hosts H and K. In FIG. 3, Host H and virtual host V interact as described above for FIG. 2. However, unlike in FIG. 2, in FIG. 3, virtual host V and ports P1 and P2 are in first switch S1 and port P2 of virtual host V is connected by an Ethernet to a port P3 of second switch S2. As a result, within first switch S1, incoming packets with destination address V are routed according to the table shown in the block in first switch S1. Second switch S2 also has a port P4 that is connnected by Ethernet to host K. Likewise, within second switch S2, incoming packets with destination address W are routed according to the table shown in the block in second switch S2. Therefore, packets arriving from host H are rejected if they did not come from port P1, packets arriving from virtual host V are rejected if they did not come from port P3, and packets arriving from virtual host W are rejected if they did not come from port P4. Conversely, in the opposite direction, packets arriving from host K are rejected if they did not come from port P4, packets arriving from virtual host W are rejected if they did not come from port P2, and packets arriving from virtual host V are rejected if they did not come from port P1.

Page 5, fourth paragraph, lines 20 to 23:

An example of a virtual circuit signaling connection set-up protocol follows. A protocol for setting up a connection between two ~~hosts A and B~~ hosts, for example, H and K in any of FIGs. 2, 3 or 4, takes place in three stages. First [[A]] H requests that the connection be made, then [[B]] K accepts the request and causes a virtual circuit to be created, and finally [[A]] H confirms that indeed there is a connection.

Page 5, fifth paragraph, lines 25 to 29:

The connection request is sent as an ordinary IP datagram from ~~A to B~~ H to K. The accept message is sent as a signal, which is a message from ~~A to B~~ H to K that is flagged for special attention in each of the network nodes along the way. As this signal progresses through the network a (full duplex) virtual circuit is created between ~~A and B~~ H and K. Finally, the confirmation message from [[A]] H is transmitted over the new virtual circuit.

Page 6, second paragraph, lines 11 to 16:

The connection, accept and confirm message are coincident with the IP packets which normally start a TCP virtual circuit connection on the Internet. A TCP session begins with the following 3-way handshake: Client host [[A]] H chooses a port number and sends a SYN message to server host ~~B. B~~K. K chooses a port number, and sends a SYN message to ~~A. A~~H. H can then use the connection, and sends an ACK message to ~~B. B~~K. K then understands that it can also use the connection.

Please add the following new paragraph:

Page 5, after the third paragraph, starting at line 20:

In FIG. 4, Host H, virtual host V and host K interact as described above for FIG. 2. However, in FIG. 3, virtual host V also has a port P3 that is connected by an Ethernet to host L. Likewise, within second switch S2, incoming packets with destination address V are routed according to the table shown in the block in switch S. Therefore, packets arriving from host H are rejected if they did not come from port P1, packets arriving from virtual host V are rejected by host K if they did not come from port P3, and packets arriving from virtual host V are rejected by host L if they did not come from port P3. Conversely, in the opposite direction, packets arriving from host K are rejected if they did not come from port P2, packets arriving from host L are rejected if they did not come from port P3, and packets arriving from virtual host V are rejected if they did not come from port P1.